



Director of
Central
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***Monday
17 May 1982***

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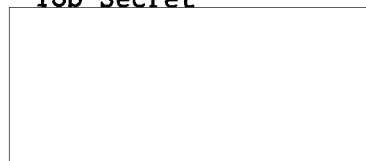
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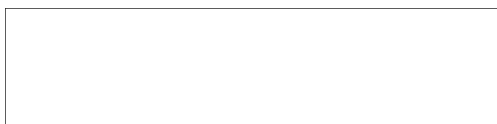


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PORTUGAL: Showdown Coming on Constitutional Revision

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5 The ruling Democratic Alliance coalition and the opposition Socialist Party have reached a compromise on proposed constitutional changes that heightens tension between Prime Minister Balsemao and President Eanes. []

7 The government wants to end the military's role in political decisionmaking, reduce presidential powers, and remove constitutional references to Marxist ideas that were prevalent during the revolutionary period. Balsemao needs the support of the Socialists to secure the two-thirds parliamentary majority required for revision. []

3
5 Under the proposed changes, the government would no longer be "politically responsible" to the president. The majority of the members of the Constitutional Tribunal--which will assume some of the functions of the military-controlled Revolutionary Council--will be appointed by the government without the president's concurrence. Although most Marxist rhetoric would be deleted from the constitution, differences with the Socialists would prevent the government from removing "transition to socialism" as the national goal or returning to private ownership firms nationalized after the revolution. []

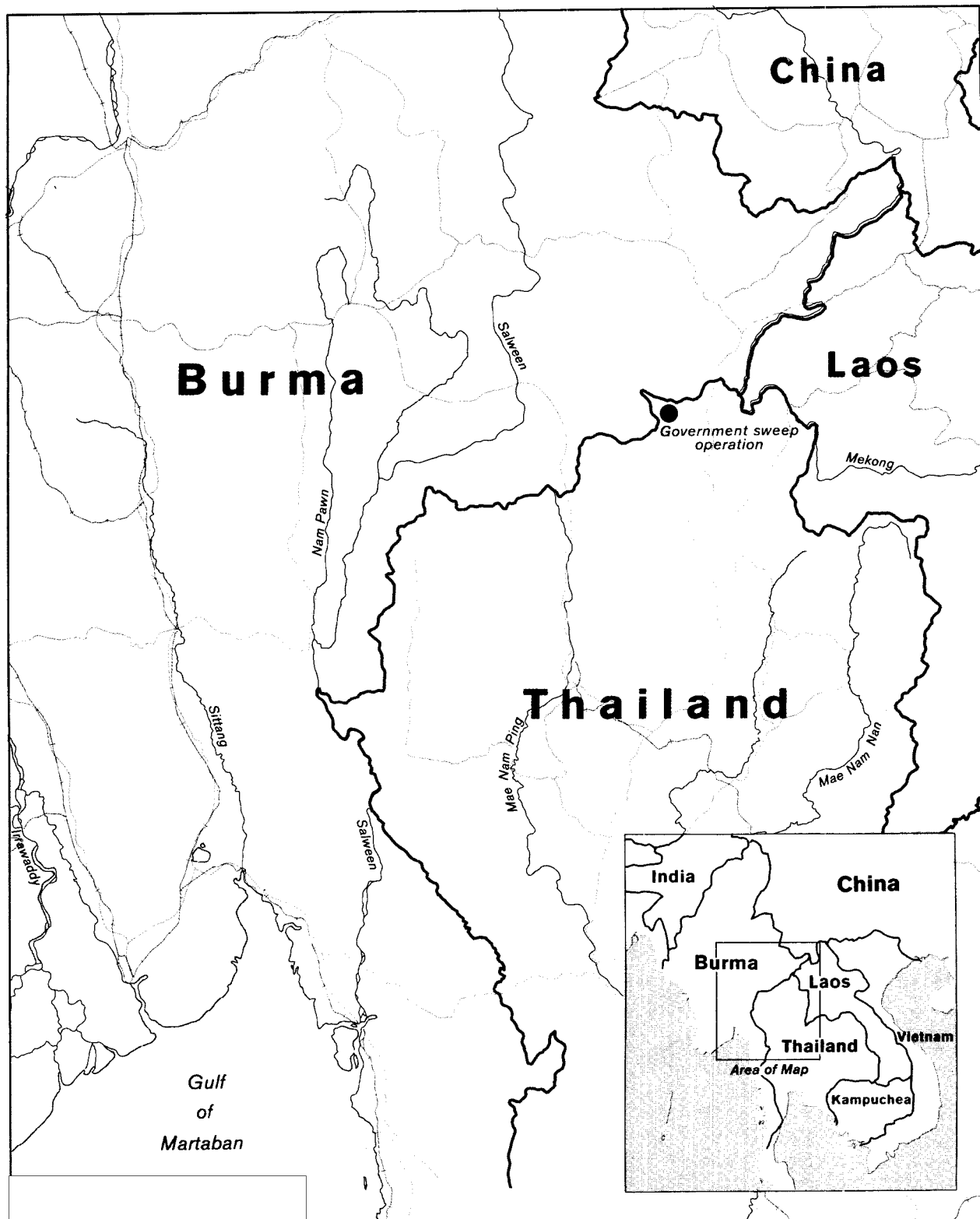
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6 Comment: President Eanes seems particularly upset over the proposed reduction of his power to dismiss a majority government. He is again thinking seriously about founding his own political party. Rumors that Eanes would dismiss the government and resign to establish a party persuaded the Socialists earlier this year to back away from one agreement, and this could happen again. []

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8 Eanes, however, probably has missed his best chance to move against the government on the constitutional issue, which could be settled by early July. He could easily have dismissed parliament in the aftermath of violence on May Day that resulted in a government investigation of police involvement. The government has since benefited from its restraint during the Communist-sponsored general strike last week and the national euphoria surrounding the papal visit. []

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THAILAND: Renewed Antinarcotics Campaign

Thai forces have launched their second major military attack in five months against the Shan United Army, the largest drug trafficking organization in the Golden Triangle area of Thailand, Burma, and Laos. They have overrun an extensive command and supply center under construction near the Burmese border, conducted airstrikes against outlying opium refineries, and are undertaking sweeps against remaining Shan troops. An operation last January dislodged the Shan organization from its nearby headquarters, resulting in the capture of large amounts of arms, communications equipment, and documents. [redacted]

[redacted]

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Comment: To achieve any lasting impact, the Thai will have to commit larger forces permanently to the border area and develop tactics to counter likely Shan moves to establish a covert trafficking network and expand the use of alternate supply routes. Moreover, they will have to block other trafficking groups that will move in to pick up customers relinquished by the Shan United Army. A significant drop in the availability of opium is unlikely in any case. Most of the Golden Triangle's raw opium is produced in Burma along the Chinese border, an area firmly under the control of the Burmese Communist Party. [redacted]

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